

HB 5521

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee:

As a Licensed Psychologist in Connecticut, I am writing in strong opposition to HB 5521. I have been practicing in the mental health field for 15 years, and I can attest that the thorough, intense, highly-supervised training I received in my doctoral program far surpassed that of any of the Masters-level clinicians I have worked with over the years. To think that unsuspecting clients would be led to believe that their Masters-level clinicians have the same kind of knowledge base and clinical expertise as a doctoral level psychologist would be unthinkable and unfair. I have seen many clients choose to work with Masters-level clinicians for a variety of reasons. I have also seen clients specifically request to work with a licensed psychologist for their own reasons as well. The idea that a potential client would not be able to differentiate between practitioners with very different levels of expertise seems to be deceptive, confusing and will likely affect those people who need help the most who have the poorest understanding of the professional backgrounds of those who are deemed in a position of power to help them. I am very much opposed to this bill and I know that my fellow licensed clinical psychologists are as well.

Sincerely,

Ila Sabino, Ph.D.

Licensed Clinical Psychologist